Community Hurricane Preparedness Event and WeatherFest 2012

Tallahassee, Florida
May 3, 2012

Goal: To display a unified message of preparedness and response among local, state, federal, and non-governmental agencies for the upcoming hurricane season. Also, to educate students and residents of the area about the value of preparedness before the start of hurricane season.

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1. Participating Agency Descriptions

Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS):

The Leon County EMS Division exists to provide clinically superior, compassionate, cost-effective emergency medical services to all citizens and visitors of Leon County; regardless of social economic status, utilizing the latest technologies and medical care standards within the bounds of available resources.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Logistical Support Trailer- This trailer and prime mover configuration supports logistical response to regional EMS entities with logistics technicians and relief medical supplies that are intended to supplement a receiving agencies ability to carry out a MCI response.

Rapid Deployment Tent- This inflatable tent is designed for rapid deployment at emergency scenes where multiple patients are encountered, it is intended to shield patients from weather extremes such as heat, cold, or rain and provides an area that can be used as a holding / treatment area while transport units cycle patients to receiving hospitals in the region. It is supplied with area lighting, electricity and medical supplies by the logistical support unit described above and it is a regional asset.

Response Carts - The response carts are used at various outdoor events where large crowds are gathered. These carts enable Paramedics and EMT's to navigate through the crowds and transport injured people to waiting EMS unit established on the periphery. Some of the carts have been purchased to respond to incidents inside the forested areas of Leon county where ambulances are unable to respond. LCEMS uses these 4 and 6 wheel drive carts to respond to remote areas where 4 wheeler accidents, or bicycle accidents occur in remote wooded areas and patients need rescue do to their injury. The patients are transported to the nearest road capable of supporting a standard ambulance and are equipped to treat patients at the point of the incident until transfer to a standard ground transport unit.

The Florida State University Center for Ocean and Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS):

The Florida State University Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS) promotes interdisciplinary research in air-sea interaction, the coupled ocean-atmosphere-land-ice earth system, and climate prediction on scales of weeks to decades in order to increase our understanding of the physical, social, and economical consequences of coupled ocean-atmospheric variations. In 2012, COAPS scientists will release their fourth annual Atlantic hurricane season forecast. The forecast is made using a numerical atmospheric computer model which was developed at COAPS and proved highly successful during the first 3 forecast years. COAPS also uses models to develop improved predictions of hurricane-induced storm surges.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Storm surge demonstration: We'll make a model coastline with houses and other coastal features. Then we'll test our model to see where the coast might flood during a hurricane's storm surge.

Let it rain: Children will learn to measure rainfall by seeing how much rain they can make using sponge "clouds" and rain gauges. Prizes will be given to those who come closest to simulating the heavy rainfall that occurs during hurricanes.

Oceans and heat: We'll use balloons to demonstrate how oceans absorb heat, which is a factor in hurricane formation and strength.

Federal Emergency Management Agency - Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment -Thomasville, Georgia:

The Detachment is responsible for supporting FEMA response operations in the 8 Southeastern States that comprise FEMA Region IV (Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky) by providing telephone (voice), computer (data) and video services to federal, State, local and tribal officials responding to disasters. Our resources (emergency operations vehicles and logistics supply vehicles) provide immediate communications between the State emergency managers and the Federal Government (no matter how devastating the event) to minimize the suffering and disruption of the people affected.

The Detachment is integral in facilitating the creation of:

- Joint Field Office, where the state and federal officials interface for disaster management.

- Disaster Recovery Centers, where individuals can register to request federal assistance, meet with Small Business Association for relief and assistance and State/County Officials.

We also support communication requests from Urban Search and Rescue teams, state leadership, local law enforcement, fire departments and emergency management officials.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Kentucky Emergency Operations Vehicle (EOV): Medium sized 48 foot trailer with "office space" for 12 people and a small meeting area. The vehicle is used to provide support for the Federal Coordinating Officer, Incident Management Team, other Federal agency/State personnel and teams supporting response efforts. Capabilities include a full suite of voice(phone), data (computer), video teleconferencing with limited Land Mobile Radio assets.

Initial Response Vehicle (IRV): The IRV is a quick response vehicle typically used to provide support for the Federal Coordinating Officer, Incident Management Team, other Federal agency/State personnel and teams supporting response efforts. The vehicle is rugged, compact with office space for 4 people with video teleconferencing. Capabilities include a full suite of voice, data with Land Mobile Radio, High Frequency (HF) radio and access to the public internet. Additionally a telescoping mast with camera and the vehicle can also transmit real time video and receive video from aircraft for processing and transmission. The IRV can be air transported via C-17 and C-130 aircraft for rapid deployment.

Forward Communications Vehicle (FCV): The FCV is an initial deployment truck designed to provide Land Mobile Radio, High Frequency (HF) radio and satellite capabilities (BGAN). This vehicle is mainly used to support FEMA Field Incident Management Teams, Urban Search and Rescue teams and other radio requirements. The FCV can be air transported via C-130, C-17 and C-5 aircraft for rapid deployment.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission- Air Component:

Our FWC pilots strive to protect Florida's natural resources and human life through airborne patrol in support of our Division of Law Enforcement Officers. We promptly respond to search and rescue requests for overdue or lost outdoor users, assist other agencies during natural disasters, and promote boating safety through airborne patrols. In emergency situations, our pilots provide expedient transportation of personnel and supplies, and aviation support to our Special Operations Group (SOG).

The FWC's aviation unit operates a wide range of aircraft with diverse capabilities. We operate Bell 206B (Jet Ranger), Bell 206L-4 (Long Ranger) and UH1 (Huey) helicopters. Several fixed-wing airplanes, including twin-engine Partenavia's, and Cessna 182's, are strategically positioned across the state. Our pilots are trained and experienced in the use of specialized equipment that allow them to successfully complete their mission. Some of the aircraft are equipped with FLIR (thermal imaging camera) NightSun (30 million candlepower searchlight) and the latest in GPS navigational systems. This equipment, in addition to the NVG's (Night Vision Goggles) worn by our pilots, allow them to fly day or night in their endeavor to "Patrol, Protect, and Preserve".

At the event, be sure to check out:

- **Bell UH1H Huey Helicopter**
- **Bell OH58 Helicopter**
- **Cessna 182T Airplane**
- **Partenavia P68 Observer Airplane**

Florida Division of Emergency Management:

The Florida Division of Emergency Management plans for and responds to both natural and man-made disasters, and is the state's liaison with federal and local agencies on emergencies of all kinds. Division staff members provide technical assistance to local governments as they prepare emergency plans and procedures and also routinely conduct training and exercises to test state and county emergency response capabilities.

The division maintains a primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Tallahassee, which serves as the communications and command center for reporting emergencies and coordinating state response activities. The division also operates the State Warning Point, a state emergency communications center staffed 24 hours each day. The Division and its various programs are also active in the community, encouraging all Floridians to "Get A Plan".

At the event, be sure to check out:

State Emergency Response Team Mobile Command Vehicle:

The State of Florida Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) is managed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and serves as the mobile extension of the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee by supporting various response and recovery elements of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) in the field. The MCV can sustain itself remotely through diesel operated generators and has been called upon several times to help respond to disasters such as the 2007 Groundhog Day tornadoes in Central Florida, the 2007 wildfires, Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne, Ivan, Dennis, Wilma, and Katrina in Mississippi.

State Emergency Response Team Regional Coordinator Vehicle and Mobile Communications Trailer:

The Regional Coordinators are the Division's liaisons to local governments and communities. Strategically placed throughout the state, they interact with city and county emergency management offices on a daily basis to ensure coordination with the State in all phases of emergency management. The primary responsibility of the coordinators is to be the first state representative on-site to any local emergency or disaster, and provide assistance where applicable and route information to the State Emergency Operations Center. This exhibit will show the regional coordinator vehicle and mobile communications trailer that ensures the constant communication link between all first responders and the State Emergency Response Team.

Tornado Tube Challenge:

Create your own tornado in a bottle in this fun experiment. Participants will also get to interact with the Division's website for kids, www.kidsgetaplan.com, and play online games, such as the wildfire mitigation simulator, Supply Kit scavenger hunt, and Professor Tinkermeister's weather trivia.

Florida Department of Financial Services

Mission: To safeguard the integrity of the transactions entrusted to the Department of Financial Services and to ensure that every program within the Department delivers value to the citizens of Florida by continually improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of internal management processes and regularly validating the value equation with our customers.

Division of Consumer Services

The Division of Consumer Services is a "First Responder" in the event of a natural disaster. The Division provides a dedicated toll free line, 1-800-22-Storm (1-800-227-8676) specifically for consumers with disaster-related insurance issues. The Division expands its call hours to accommodate the need of Florida's consumers based on the severity of the disaster.

At the event, be sure to check out the divisions:

Mobile Response Vehicle – This vehicle is used to establish an "Insurance Village" after the disaster, in the heart of the most affected area(s). The insurance industry as a whole is very responsive to this plan and follows the Division's lead in establishing the village by bringing their mobile facilities to the site. It allows the Division and the insurance companies to provide on the spot assistance to policyholders who have been the most affected by the disaster. If an insurance company is not onsite, the Division assists consumers by taking their claims and submitting the information directly to their insurance company through the Division's E-Storm system. The E-Storm system allows claims information to be electronically forwarded to the consumer's insurance company in a real time mode of communication.

Division of Insurance Fraud

The Division of Insurance Fraud enforces the criminal laws of Florida in relation to insurance transactions. Investigators are certified law enforcement officers with the authority to bear arms and make arrests. The division serves and safeguards the public and businesses in Florida against acts of insurance fraud and the resulting impact those crimes have on taxpayers, personally and financially. The division is a member of the State of Florida's Emergency Operations Center in the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 16 for Law Enforcement.

At the event, be sure to check out the divisions:

Logistical Support Trailer – This trailer supports the division's 55 officer Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT responds to catastrophes and natural disasters where additional law enforcement resources are needed. In recent years, the division's ERT has responded to incidents both inside and outside the State of Florida. The Logistical Support Trailer supports the ERT by transporting much needed equipment (generators, tents, food and water, and law enforcement supplies). This equipment allows the ERT to be self sustaining and stay deployed for several weeks at a time.

Division of State Fire Marshal

The Division of State Fire Marshal is located within the Department of Financial Services, where Jeff Atwater not only serves as Florida's Chief Financial Officer but also as Florida's State Fire Marshal. The Division of State Fire Marshal is dedicated to providing the highest quality services to all of our customers, from local fire departments who request our assistance with conducting fire investigations to citizens who want to attend one of the finest fire training colleges in the state. The division is also a member of the State of Florida's Emergency Operations Center and is the lead Agency in the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 and 9 for Firefighting, and Search and Rescue.

At the event, be sure to check out the divisions:

Bomb Truck – The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) Bomb Trucks are strategically prepositioned across Florida to provide support to Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations Bomb Technicians. The trucks are equipped with a bomb suit, deployable robot, x-ray instruments, and other equipment necessary to conduct render safe procedures for suspicious objects or packages.

Bomb Suit - The Bomb suit is necessary to protect the BFAI Bomb Technician during explosion investigations; suspicious item investigations and deployment of render safe operations

EOD Robotics - The BFAI EOD Robot has the capability to approach suspicious items and examine them prior to the Bomb Technician having to approach it. The BFAI EOD Robots are also used in support of Local Law Enforcement, Sheriff's Departments, State Law Enforcement agencies and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies during high risk search warrant execution, apprehension of barricaded (resisting) violent crime suspects and other law enforcement operations where violence is probable. Using the robot limits the exposure of law enforcement officers to potential gunfire or explosive devices when arresting dangerous criminals.

Leon County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management:

The Leon County Division of Emergency Management was established by Leon County Ordinance 93-16, with the responsibility of coordinating emergency management activities, services and programs within the county. Management of the Leon County E9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System is also under the direction of the Leon County Division of Emergency Management. The E9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System was established by Leon County Ordinance 89-5.

On March 16, 1999 the Leon County Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement to transfer job functions and equipment of the Leon County Division of Emergency Management to the Leon County Sheriff's Office. Under this agreement the Division reports to the Sheriff on a daily basis and to the Board of County Commissioners in times of an emergency.

At the event, be sure to check out:

- Emergency Management Response Vehicles

Apalachee Regional Planning Council:

The Regional Planning Council is recognized as Florida's only multi-purpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater than local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments and meet other needs of the communities in each region

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council updated the Apalachee Region Evacuation Study in 2010. Based on the data in the study, counties impacted by hurricane storm surge developed evacuation zones and identified statewide evacuation routes. The Coastal High Hazard Area was also updated during this process. Maps of evacuation zones, evacuation routes and the CHHA will be available.

Leon County and the City of Tallahassee are in the process of developing a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan. Information regarding the PDRP will be available and public feedback is encouraged.

City of Tallahassee Participating Departments:

Emergency Management:

Our role is to prepare City of Tallahassee departments for all hazards including natural and man-made disaster situations. Emergency Management oversees City response efforts by coordinating departmental activities that rapidly restore our critical infrastructure and ensure the safety of our citizens.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Emergency response vehicles and emergency management information

Water Quality:

Protect the quality of the aquifer which is the source of our drinking water.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Pamphlets on water quality and how to protect our water

Utilities:

Dedicated to protecting and enriching the quality of life in the Tallahassee Community. Committed to providing reliable utility services, environmental leadership, financial responsibility and customer service excellence.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Pamphlets on utilities services and give away items.

Police:

To continue the time-honored tradition of excellence in public service by protecting and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens

At the event, be sure to check out:

Mobile Command Vehicle

Electric:

The Electric Utility is committed to enriching the quality of life in Tallahassee by providing clean and reliable electric service to our customers through a professional and diverse workforce that is committed to safe, responsible, cost effective and customer focused operations.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Electric display board, showing dangers of electricity and pamphlets

Fire:

The Mission of the Tallahassee Fire Department is to provide for the safety and welfare of our community and our members through prevention, preparation and protection.

At the event, be sure to check out:

Fire Engine and the Urban Search and Rescue Response unit

Tallahassee Regional Airport:

The Tallahassee Regional Airport serves as host for this year's Hurricane Preparedness Event and WeatherFest. The Tallahassee Regional Airport traces its roots back to 1929 when the City of Tallahassee opened its first municipal airport, Dale Mabry Field. In 1961 to meet the growing commercial aviation needs of the community, a new facility was constructed at the present airport location. Several expansions to the airport were completed through the 1980s when the Tallahassee Regional Airport opened its existing commercial aviation terminal designed to meet the needs of the residents of Tallahassee and the Capital Region.

In addition to numerous commercial and general aviation activities, The Tallahassee Regional Airport also serves an important role in the response to natural disasters. As a major transportation facility in North Florida, the airport is capable of supporting all aircraft used by state and federal emergency management agencies to transport relief and recovery supplies needed within the local community. The airport can also serve as a forward staging area for relief supplies needed in other areas of the country.

National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. The NWS Weather Forecast Office in Tallahassee provides forecast and warnings for 48 counties in Southeast Alabama, Southwest and South Central Georgia, and North Florida. Meteorologists at NWS Tallahassee constantly monitor and predict weather 24 hours a day, 7 days a week ensuring the NWS mission of protecting life and property.

At the event be sure to check out:

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS): The computer workstation used to monitor, predict, and issue forecasts and warnings by a local National Weather Service Office. AWIPS provides NWS meteorologists access to the latest satellite, radar, and computer model data across the country.

Weather Balloons: NWS Tallahassee, along with many other offices around the country, release weather balloons twice daily. Radiosondes are attached to these weather balloons and collect important temperature, relative humidity, pressure, and wind measurements throughout the atmosphere. These data are then used in computer models predicting weather patterns across the globe.

WFO Video Tour: This 5 minute video provides an inside look at the working operation of the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee. Routine weather monitoring, severe weather operations, and weather balloon releases are all depicted in this video tour.

Hydrologic Flood Model: This fun filled model activity uses a plastic tank with a simulated river to demonstrate how both rural and urban areas affect rainwater runoff and possibly cause flooding. This dynamic, hands-on, simulation model clearly demonstrates the critical role of floodplains and how development within both urban and rural environments can impact runoff from heavy rain and cause flooding.

Florida Department of Education

The Department of Education is prepared to enact appropriate response and recovery measures for all types of emergency events. The Department offers assistance in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and facilitates the dissemination of information regarding the state of the emergency and the Department operations by broadcast phone message, e-mail, webpage, or alert notification system.

While the Department of Education does not have a traditional role in a Disaster Recovery Center, it is important to detail the Department's role in emergency management and the technical assistance it offers since the continuity of educational opportunities is a vital public service which is critical to our state's recovery and economic stabilization.

- The primary authority for schools (K-12) rests with each local district school board.
- School boards must adopt policies to ensure appropriate emergency response.
- Appropriate educational facilities are made available for public shelter space, if a request is made by the local emergency management agency.
- Each Board of Trustees along with the college president is responsible for governing the emergency management operations of the individual Florida College System institutions.
- The Board of Governors along with the university president is responsible for governing the emergency management operations of the university.

At the event, be sure to check out:

- Handout highlighting the department's programs
- Outline of the department's functions prior, during, and after a disaster.
- Staff from the Emergency Management office will be available to discuss and answer questions with exhibit visitors.

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)

The non-profit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH®) is the country's leading consumer advocate for strengthening homes and safeguarding families from natural and manmade disasters. FLASH works to affect life safety, property protection, and economic well being by empowering consumers with resources for strengthening their homes and safeguarding their families from natural and manmade disasters.

At the event be sure to check out:

New "Tapeless" initiative designed to educate residents on the best way to protect and secure their homes from tropical storms and hurricanes.

Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. The Red Cross goal is to help our community prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

At the event be sure to check out:

Emergency Response Vehicle: This vehicle is used to provide meals and to distribute bulk items (such as water or clean up kits) throughout a community after disasters. The Emergency Response vehicle can distribute up to 1,000 meals a day to an affected community and it's also acts to relay current needs of the community to the Red Cross operations center.

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Citizens Serving Communities...Above and Beyond

CAP serves America by developing our nation's youth; performing local, state and national missions; and informing our citizens about the importance of aerospace education.

In December 1941, one week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Civil Air Patrol was founded by more than 150,000 citizens who were concerned about the defense of America's coastline.

In 2000, Congress provided that "The Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the Air Force when the services of the Civil Air Patrol are used by any department or agency in any branch of the federal government."

Aerospace Education
• Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace.
• Provides comprehensive aerospace education resources online.

Emergency Services
• Conducts 90 percent of inland search and rescue in the U.S., as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.
• Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.
• Conducts orientation flights for Air Force Junior and Senior ROTC cadets.
• Maintains the most extensive VHF and HF communications network in the nation.

During a hurricane threat CAP has personnel assigned to the State Emergency Operations Center. Prior to the arrival of a hurricane CAP flies emergency evacuation routes to report traffic conditions to law enforcement. After passage of a hurricane or tornado CAP flies over damaged & flooded areas to photograph conditions for immediate use by various state & local agencies.

Cadet Programs
• Includes more than 25,000 members ages 12 through 20.
• Educates youth in four main program areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.

At the event, be sure to check out:

- CAP Van
- Cessna 172 used on various missions.
- Information about becoming a volunteer.

Other participating and supporting agencies:

Florida Highway Patrol

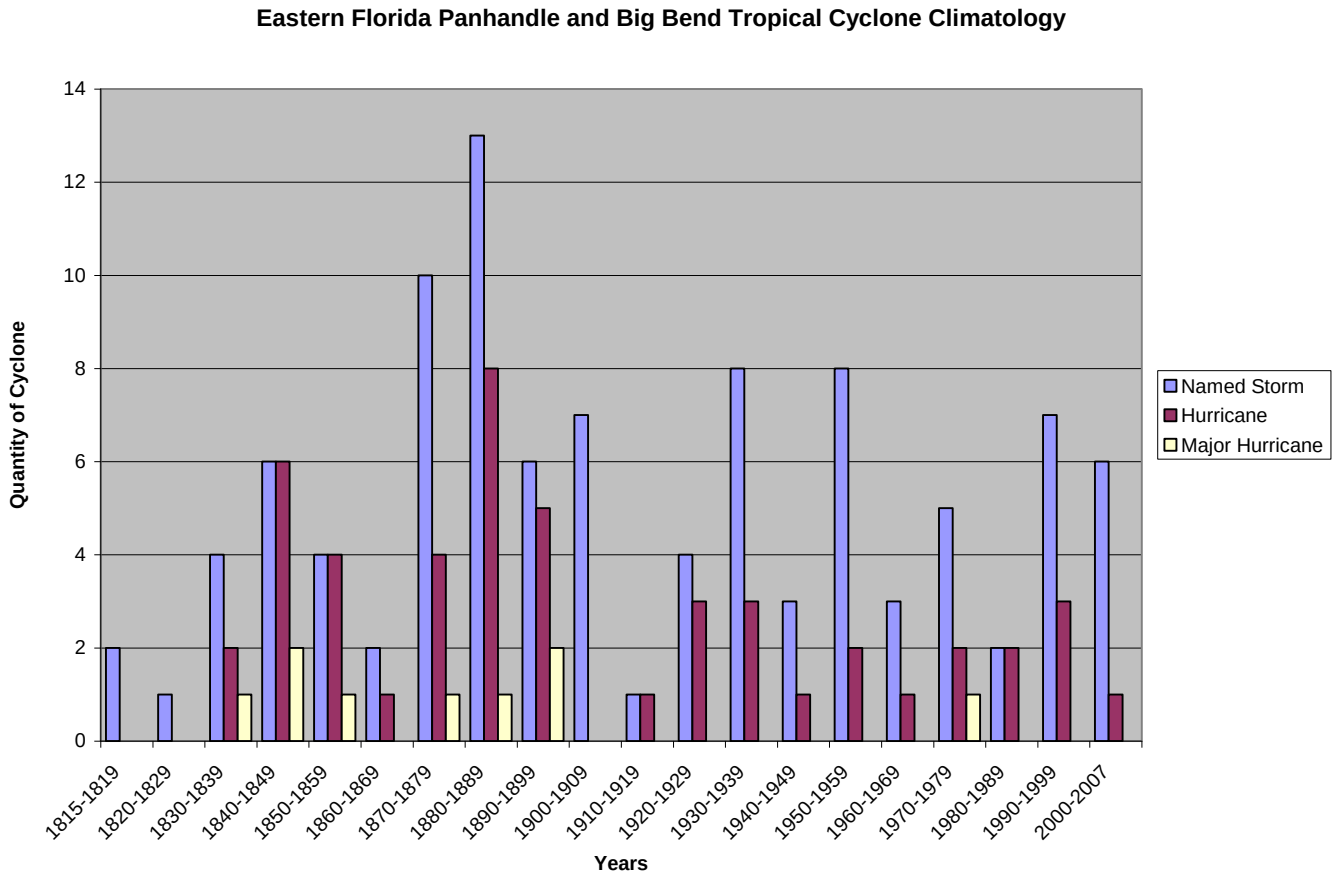
Volunteer Leon:

2. Historical Tropical Cyclone Data of the Florida Big Bend and Panhandle

Summary

Reliable hurricane history for the region begins around 1815, though some storms through the 1820s may have been missed due to the region being sparsely populated until after Tallahassee became the territorial capital of the US Territory of Florida.

Over the period of 1815 to 2007, 102 systems of tropical storm intensity or higher have made landfall or moved near the region between Destin and the mouth of the Suwannee River. Several active periods in the late 19th century are noted as indicated in the graph below.



During the most active period of 1870 to 1899, 29 tropical systems impacted the region, of which 17 were hurricanes. During this 30 year period, 45 percent of the region's major hurricane landfalls occurred. A relative quiet period ensued from 1900 through 1960 with only 34 tropical systems making landfall, of which only 11 were hurricanes. Our last major hurricane was Hurricane Eloise in 1975. Since 1980, 15 named storms have made landfall along our coastline. The reason for the noticeable decrease in landfalling tropical cyclones in the 20th century is unclear. However, we do know that climatology favors a tropical cyclone that is recurving into the westerlies as it approaches our forecast area. Tropical cyclones of this type are typically weakening around landfall. Comparatively, our coastline features one of the lowest probabilities of landfalls from a tropical system in the southeast.

Specific Tropical Cyclones of Note:

August 7, 1837. A hurricane makes landfall along the northern Gulf Coast, likely somewhere west of Panama City. This storm produced a storm surge in excess of 6 feet at St. Marks. The effects of this storm at Saint Marks were likely similar to Hurricane Dennis of 2005.

August 30, 1837. A compact major hurricane makes landfall near Apalachicola. According to Florida's Hurricane History by Jay Barnes, "Damage from this hurricane was severe, as ships were wrecked and homes and wharves were washed away. In St. Joseph (near modern day Port St. Joe) a three story building was 'razed to the ground.' The damages in Apalachicola were first estimated to be $200,000, but that figure was later reduced. The editor of the Apalachicola Gazette summaries the scene: 'I write from the midst of ruins.'"

September 1841. St. Joseph was completed destroyed by a hurricane. Little is known about this storm other than little was left of the town after the storm.

October 4, 1842. A major hurricane makes landfall near Saint Marks and produces a 20 foot storm surge at Cedar Key. Tallahassee suffers significant wind damage valued at 11.1 million in 2008 dollars. At Apalachicola, the East Pass lighthouse was heavily damaged when it lost 30 feet of its height. According to Florida's Hurricane History, "'roads in all directions from the Florida capital were blocked with thousands of fallen trees.'"

September 13, 1843. Port Leon is wiped off the map by a category two hurricane. A 10 foot storm surge is produced referred to as a "tidal wave". The hurricane kills 14 in the Florida Panhandle. In the Florida Historical Quarterly, historian T. Frederick Davis wrote:

> *Every warehouse in the town was laid flat with the ground....Nearly every dwelling was thrown from its foundation and many of them crushed to atoms. The merchants took what precautions they could for protection against high wind and water before the height of the storm, by moving their goods, as they thought, out of danger. But the surging water and furious blasts were irresistible, and the goods in the stores were either destroyed or badly damaged....Every dwelling house and store that was not demolished was left in a wretchedly shattered and filthy condition.*

August 30, 1850. A powerful hurricane hits Apalachicola bringing a significant storm tide. Several downtown streets were flooded.

August 24, 1851. The Great Middle-Florida Hurricane. A major hurricane hits Apalachicola producing a 12 foot storm surge in Saint Marks. This storm was recorded as the "most savage and destructive storm in the history of Apalachicola." The Commercial Advertiser, the newspaper in Apalachicola reported that this was, "the most destructive storm it has ever witnessed." All three lighthouses were blown down or washed away. Florida's Hurricane History puts it this way:

> *"The wind apparently blew for more than twenty hours, leveling houses of all sizes. Extremely high tides washed away warehouses and stores and all of their contents, leaving the inhabitants without shelter and almost without food. All of the buildings on Water Street were destroyed, and every house on Front or Commerce Street is in ruins."*

In Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Sentinel reported that "tall forest oaks were uprooted or rudely snapped asunder; China trees stood no chance, fences were prostrated, tin roofing peeled up like paper, roofs torn up, brick bats flying; and altogether such a general scatteration taking place as is not often seen."

At Saint Marks, the storm tide was greater that all previous storms with portions of the fortifications swept away. The tide was estimated in excess of 12 feet. Residents were forced from their homes in the midst of the storm and forced to swim or float on debris.

October 3, 1877. A major hurricane makes landfall at Apalachicola creating a storm surge of 12 feet.

June 21, 1886. A category 2 hurricane makes landfall in Saint Marks.

June 30, 1886. A category 2 hurricane makes landfall east of Apalachicola.

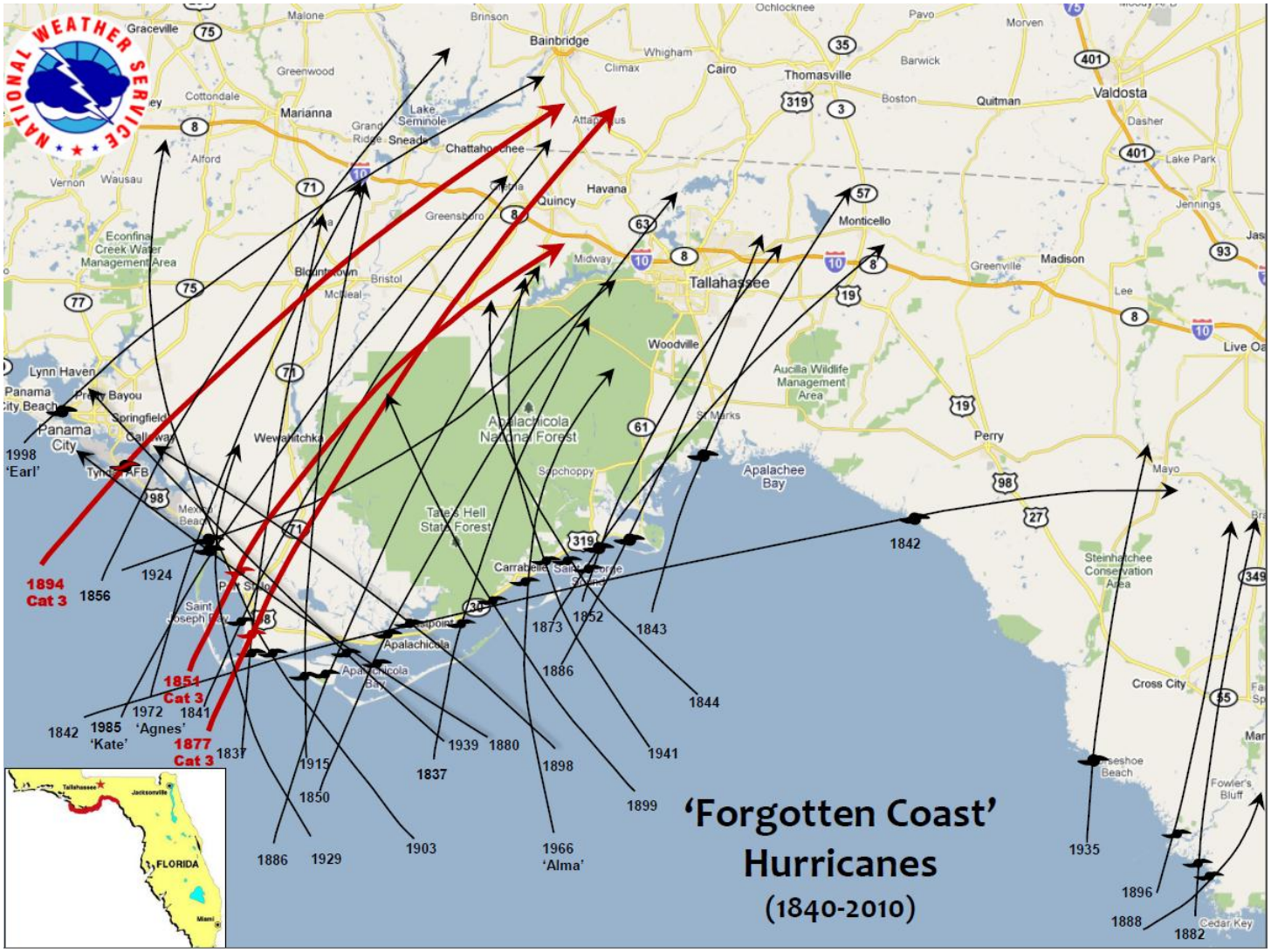
June 9, 1966. Hurricane Alma makes landfall near Apalachicola as a category two hurricane. Alma caused 66 million dollars (2008 USD) in damage. Winds of 75 to 100 mph were estimated in coastal Wakulla County.

September 23, 1975. Major Hurricane Eloise makes landfall near Destin with winds of 125 mph. This storm created a 16 foot storm surge across the Panhandle Coast. Damage exceeded 400 million in 2008 USD.

November 21, 1985. Hurricane Kate makes landfall east of Panama City, near Mexico Beach with winds of 95 mph. Significant wind damage occurred around the western Florida Big Bend, particularly in and around Tallahassee.

Even if a tropical cyclone does not directly make landfall in our forecast area, impacts can still be felt. This was very much the case in the active 2004 season. Bonnie, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne all had an impact on our forecast area. The most severe was Ivan which produced numerous tornadoes across the forecast area and storm surge heights of 8 to 10 feet along the panhandle coast.

The 2005 hurricane season continued to bring a series of tropical cyclones into the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane Dennis, even though making landfall in the Pensacola area, provided moderate to significant damage along our coastline. While wind speeds remained below hurricane force across our forecast area, the main story was storm surge. Between 8 to 10 feet of storm surge was observed in Apalachee Bay well east of where Dennis made landfall. From Apalachicola to Keaton Beach, coastal communities were inundated with storm surge. US Highway 98 was washed out in several places in Franklin County. The worst damage was in the community of Saint Marks where a large portion of the town was under 4 to 6 feet of water. The unusually high storm surge from a storm making landfall a couple hundred miles to the west was caused by a trapped continental shelf wave moving northward along the Florida west coast.


'Forgotten Coast'
Hurricanes
(1840-2010)
1894
Cat 3
1998
'Earl'
1856
1924
1851
Cat 3
1842
1985
'Kate'
1972
1841
'Agnes'
1877
Cat 3
1837
1915
1850
1886
1929
1903
1837
1939
1880
1898
1966
'Alma'
1899
1941
1873
1852
1843
1886
1844
1842
1935
1896
1888
1882
Tallahassee
Panama City
Apalachicola
Apalachicola Bay
Apalachee Bay
Perry
Valdosta
Madison
Monticello
Quincy
Havana
Bainbridge
Cairo
Thomasville
Marianna
Woodville
Cross City
Cedar Key
FLORIDA

Media Contacts and Resources:

For more information on visiting the event or scheduling an interview:

Kelly Godsey or Jeffry Evans : 850-942-8833

Visit the National Weather Service at: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh

Or

Like us on Facebook at:

http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Tallahassee.gov